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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

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UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

In recent years, there has been a growing demand by the member States that the Economic Commission for Africa should shift the emphasis of its work programme from basic studies and research to operational activities which would intensify co-operative efforts for accelerating development at the subregional and other multinational levels, as well as encourage and promote such development programmes and projects at the national level which are likely to stimulate action by African countries achieve effective economic and technical co-operation among themselves.

2. Resolutions adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers and the programmes of work and priorities approved at various sessions of the Commission during the past six years reflect a strong awareness, of the need not only to strengthen economic and technical co-operation among African countries but also to take collective action in mobilizing the resources required to achieve the objective of making African countries more self-reliant in attaining their development goals.

3. So far, a large proportion of the resource requirements for advancing the development of African countries is still being provided by the developed countries of the world and this source of development assistance is becoming increasingly expensive as a result of world inflationary trends and other factors (political and economic) operating in the developed countries themselves.

4. A significant step in the direction of self-reliance by African countries was taken by the fourth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers (thirteenth session of the Economic Commission for Africa), held in Kinshasa (Zaire) in February/March 1977, when the Conference adopted resolution 288(XIII), requesting the Executing Secretary to convene a Pledging Conference of African Government Plenipotentiaries within 60 days following the fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers in order to review arrangements for voluntary contributions by States members of the Commission and to submit a report to the meeting of the Executive Committee immediately following the Conference on the outcome of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, on the funds received and on the uses to which such funds were being put.

5. At the Lagos Pledging Conference held in April 1977, pledges amounting to approximately $US3 million were made by 14 African Governments and, since that date, additional pledges have been communicated by other African Governments on various occasions. As at 31 December 1978 the position was that out of the 49 States members of ECA, pledges totalling approximately $US 5 million had been made by 24 African Governments. Only an amount of $US1,634,193 was actually been paid excluding pledges made in kind by the Upper Volta (estimated at $US819,000) and by Zambia (estimated at $US153,000).

6. In view of the important role assigned to the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) for co-operative action in promoting and accelerating development at the subregional level in Africa, it is expected that, through their active participation in the pledging conferences organized for the mobilization of resources, the member States covered by the various MULPOCs serving the African region will be able to assume responsibility for a significant proportion of the cost of the development programmes and projects established at the level of the supreme legislative body of their respective intergovernmental organizations. The situation as at 31 December 1979, with regard to the Commission's efforts to mobilize the resources necessary for the execution of the development programme established by its member States, is far from encouraging. This discouraging state of affairs is illustrated in table 2 giving the status of pledges as at 31 December 1979 as well as the contributions actually paid by them with regard to their pledges.

7. At the Lagos Pledging Conference held in April 1977, it was reported that the estimated resource requirements was about $US29,710,000 in respect of the budgetary requirements for the implementation of the Commission's work programme for the biennium 1977-1979, approved by the ECA Conference of Ministers at its fourth meeting held in Kinshasa (Zaire) in February/March 1977. When the estimated resource gap of $US29,710,000 was calculated shortly before the Lagos Conference, account could not have been taken of additional budgetary requirements resulting from subsequent decisions of the legislative bodies of the various MULPOCs which have established work programmes, covering their respective areas of operations, which require fairly substantial resources for their execution.

8. At the first Pledging Conference held in Lagos in April 1977, it was agreed that such Pledging Conferences should be held once in every two years during their biennial sessions of the ECA Conference of Ministers, following approval of the Commission's programme of work and priorities by the Conference of Ministers.

9. The second Pledging Conference of African Government Plenipotentiaries was held on 28 March 1979 in Rabat, Morocco.

10. It was attended by plenipotentiaries from 39 African Governments and two African banking institutions.

11. In making their pledges several participants expressed support for the Commission and its activities, and their belief in the rapid economic development of the region by the year 2000 through the collective efforts of African countries as shown on the summary of pledges made during the second Pledging Conference (see table 1).

12. By Conference of Ministers resolution 331(XIV) on UNTFAD adopted at the fifth Meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers held in Rabat (Morocco) from 22 to 28 February 1979. Governments of member States were urged to contribute generously to the Trust Fund with a view to provide the resources needed to execute the approved work programme based on the Commission's policy for collective self-reliance.

13. The same resolution requested, member States to make regular and prompt payment of the pledged contributions in order to ensure the execution of priority projects according to the approved timetable. As it is shown in the following tables a large amount of the pledged contributions are still not deposited.

Table 1: Summary of pledges made at the second Pledging Conference held on 28 March 1979 in Rabat, Morocco for the period 1979-1981

	Countries	(in United States dollars)
1.	Botswana	20,000
2.	Egypt	71,428
3.	Gabon	70,000
4.	Kenya	60,000
5.	Lesotho	7,000
6.	Liberia	20,000
7.	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	200,000
8.	Mali	25,000
9.	Mauritius	20,000
10.	Morocco	500,000
11.	Niger	10,000
12.	Rwanda	15,000
13.	Senegal	50,000
14.	Sierra Leone	20,000
15.	Togo	20,000
16.	United Republic of Cameroon	40,000
17.	Zaire (135 Zaires)	87,663
18.	Zambia	170,000 a/
19.	African Development Bank	250,000
	Total	1,656,091

a/ In kind covering the cost of accommodation for the Eastern and Southern African MULPOC based in Lusaka.

Table 2: Status of pledges as at 31 December 1979 (in United States dollars)

Countries/Trust Funds	Pledges and adjustments for 1978-1979	Pledges for future years	Collections during 1978-1979	Unpaid pledges as at 30 September 7[illegible]
United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD)				
African Development Bank	125,000	125,000	50,000	200,000
Algeria	500,000	-	-	500,000
Benin	40,000	-	-	40,000
Botswana	10,000	10,000	20,000	-
Burundi	20,000	-	20,000	-
United Republic of Cameroon	60,000	20,000	-	80,000
Chad	20,000	-	-	20,000
Central African Republic	12,000	-	-	12,000
Egypt	71,428 1/	-	-	71,428
Ethiopia	36,505	270	36,775	-
Gabon	35,000	35,000	-	70,000
Gambia	5,000	-	-	5,000
Ghana	50,000	-	40,714	9,286
Kenya	89,259	30,000	38,975	80,284
Lesotho	7,000	-	-	7,000
Liberia	10,000	10,000	-	20,000
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	-	200,000	-	200,000
Mali	12,500	12,500	-	25,000
Mauritania	10,000	-	-	10,000
Mauritius	20,000	10,000	20,000	10,000
Morocco	250,000	250,000	-	500,000
Niger	5,000	5,000	-	10,000
Nigeria	1,044,896	-	535,095	509,801
Rwanda	22,500	7,500	15,000	15,000
Senegal	150,000	-	52,593	97,407
Sierra Leone	50,000	10,000	20,000	40,000
Sudan	50,000	-	-	50,000
Togo	10,000	10,000	-	20,000
Uganda	10,108	1,092	11,200	-
Upper Volta	819,206	-	-	819,206
United Republic of Tanzania	750,000	-	500,000	250,000
Zaire	200,807	43,832	87,222	157,417
Zambia 2/	P.M	P.M.	P.M	P.M.

1/ Egypt - Document not signed. Pledge reported from document E/CN.14/727 E/CN.14/PLDG/79/4.

2/ Pledges from 1977-1981 $US 323,000 in kind covering the cost of accommodation towards the Eastern and Southern African MULPOC based in Lusaka.

14. During the period under review, African Governments have pledged a total of $US4,457,197 to augment the funds the secretariat has received from other sources to carry out its programme of work and priorities. To date, $US1,438,599 has been received in cash payments and this sum has been allocated towards the implementation of the first phase of the following projects crucial to the rational engineered development of the African region: trade in food and livestock products in West Africa; regional food plan (Agriculture); the Regional Centre for Industrial Design and Manufacturing, basic metals and engineering industries, the chemical industry development programme, and the building materials development programme (Industry); Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources (Natural resources); Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa (Economic co-operation); Higher Institute for Technical Training Research and Material Procurement and Supply Management Survey of Inter-relationship and the subregional Graduate Schools of Business Management and Finance (Management and Manpower); and the Conference of Plenipotentiaries establishing the African Trust Fund, (see table 3).

Table 3: Status of allocations of funds as at 31 December 1979

		Project Title	Resources Available 1977/79 in United States dollars
14	B04	Trade in food and livestock products in East Africa	182,000
15	B05	Regional Centre for Industrial Design	172,000
	A02	Basic metals and engineering industries, part I	129,000
11	B01	Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral resources	163,000
13	B03	Higher Institute for Technical Training and Research	50,000
12	B02	Subregional Graduate Schools of Business Management and Finance - 23,999 - B10; 24,966 - B13, 147,835	197,000
18	B09	Meeting of African plenipotentiaries	41.000
4	A03	Chemical industry development programme, part I	101,000
2	A02	Basic metals and engineering industries, part II	42,000
3	A03	Chemical industry development programme, part II A09, 12,546	53,000

Table 3 cont'ed

		Project Title	Resources Available 1977/79 in United States dollars
5.	A04	Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa	50,000
6.	A05	Regional Food Plan for Africa	84,000
7.	A06	Establishment of agricultural commodities exchange - (A08 - 20,000)	20,000
17	B08	Constructions and building materials industry programme	50,000
8	A07	Seminar on solar energy	33,684
9	A10	Survey of interrelationships of infant and childhood mortality on socio-economic variables in Zambia	17,910
10	A11	Purchasing and supply management services	73,940
19	B31	Establishment of reference library and documentation for East African Mineral Resources Development	90,000
20	B32	Central African Mineral Resources development Centre	103,700

15. In conclusion it should be emphasized that there exists a problem in financing the approved work programmes of the secretariat, a problem which requires international recognition and action to deal with it. Although the Commission has made every effort to raise funds through donor Governments and institutions to supplement the regular budget, the gap for financial requirements to implement the secretariat's work programmes still remains. The secretariat provides a means through which international funds can be channelled and utilized for the advancement of economic and social life in Africa. It is through this pooling of resources on a subregional and regional basis that an effective impact can be achieved for accelerated development in Africa. The secretariat has therefore cause to expect substantial increases in its regular budget and increased participation from Governments and institutions in financing its work programmes through extrabudgetary resources.

16. It is imperative, therefore, if meaningful efforts are to be made to implement the programme of work and priorities established by the intergovernmental organizations responsible for the activities of the various MULPOCs in the African region, that African Governments give a more practical demonstration of the Commission's policy of collective self-reliance by participating effectively at forthcoming Pledging Conferences and designating their plenipotentiaries with the

necessary credentials and full powers to pledge their Governments' contributions at these Conferences. It is also essential that outstanding pledges should be honoured as a matter of extreme urgency. It is accordingly hoped that the Governments concerned will arrange to effect payment of these as soon as possible.